

Printed Feb 25th 1844

W. B. H.
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A
Dissertation

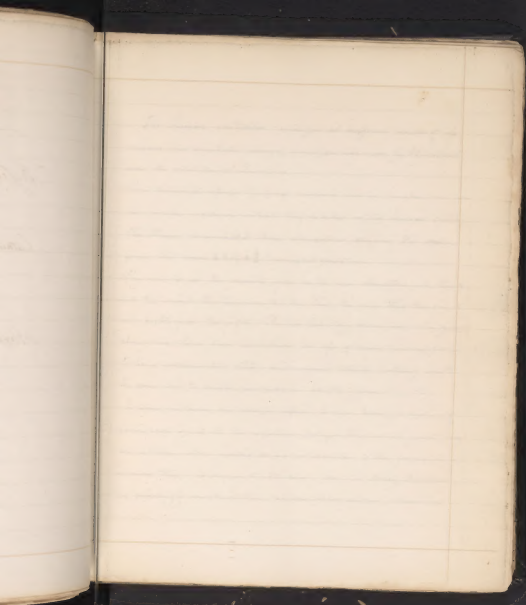
on
Catachism Similes

by
Alexander L. Hall

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The human constitution undergoes at different periods of life, various and remarkable changes, which are recognized by Physiologists under the appellation of *Climacteries*.

These remarkable epochs the Greeks considered five in number, and from the regular gradation which they exhibited in the human system, they thence denominated them *climacteries*, deriving the name from the word *κλίμαξ* signifying gradation.

They considered the seventh year as the first climacteric, the twenty first the second, the forty-ninth the third, the sixty-third the fourth, and eighty-ninth the fifth. The two last they denominated the great climacterics, being those in which the life of man was supposed to have consummated itself, and beyond which nothing was to be done but to make preparation for the grave.

In some instances the changes appeared to have been productive of favorable issue to the system, but for the most part they are in themselves morbid, or are introductory to the formation of disease. There is so frequently the case, that Sir Henry Haller has accordingly considered them as constituting disease, which he

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have called marasmus climactericus. The same affliction has
 been ~~adopted~~ by that learned neurologist Dr John Brown Esq.
 It is true that in advanced life, even after those periods, known
 as the great climacterics, have arrived, wonderful and solitary
 changes have taken place; a most extraordinary invigoration
 of the powers of the body and mind has occasionally
 shown itself; e.g. persons, who had lost the sense
 of hearing upwards of twenty years, have
 been known to recover it; others have as
 unexpectedly recovered their lost vision, and
 even afterwards enabled to see without
 the aid of glasses; while others under this
 new impulse given to the constitution,
 have undergone a second dentition, and
 have received even new and entire sets
 of teeth, and in the place too of those that
 had been gradually lost through life; and according
 to Foxström the hair has shown a similar regeneration;
 this last fact is left surprising as we know the hair,

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possessing the properties of a vegetable as well as an animal nature, to grow and change colour even after death.

But at this advanced period of life we more commonly see changes less favourable and which prove injurious and destructive of the powers of the constitution -

At this time the strength, the spirits, the appetite, the digestion, the passions, sleep, and indeed most of the functions of the body, and mind usually exhibit a manifest debility.

In women, it is remarked by some writers, that these changes are of less frequent occurrence, and are less manifest than in men, as says Sir Henry Haller who ascribes the fact to the greater exposure of men than women: this I believe is not the true cause; another explanation occurs to me as more satisfactory viz. that the accumulation of blood in the female habit, by the relaxation of the muscles, and the consequent excitement which that change imparts to the system, renders women less likely to experience this sudden expenditure of the powers of life. The exposure however of men to a check of the functions of the surface of the body and thus

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by impure habits, which have considerable agency in
the production of the disease of all ages.

Among the more prominent of this class of diseases
the one I have selected as the subject of the following
Dissertation is that of all ages as *Trichinosis*

Nature of the Disease

With regard to the nature of this disease, I cannot but be
of the opinion, whether to suppose it to be the most
notorious, but I have no doubt, very general
cause, and, secondly, to come with most violence
in those of the various temperament, and where such
temperament exists in a remarkable degree, it also appears
at a much earlier period of life than in those of a
different temperament.

Finally, it appears also with most violence and comes
on sooner in those of a weak instead of a robust constitution ~~the~~
whether naturally so or rendered by great mental exertion,
or bodily labour, or by disease.

In children, it is not cut off by a more severe disease
in ~~the~~ such like *Trichinosis* in the class of ~~various~~

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This evidence of debauchery and premature old age.
Fourthly, It attacks those with more severity who are, or have
been a primæviæ complaint, or who have an unstable
state of the lungs from numerous attacks of pneumonia
or more organs, such as bronchitis, catarrh, emphysema,
tuberculosis, &c. Indeed by this predisposition the consequence
of an attack of hæmoptoe in early life, it appeared early in
the case of the late Dr. Hark. In his letters which I have
had an opportunity of perusing within many years before
his death he speaks of Catarrhus Seminis as the only exception
to his enjoyment of perfect health.
Fifthly, A chronic may also early induce this unstable state
of the lungs. A very remarkable instance of this local
affection of the chest occurs a few years since in the
case of New York. A sedentary life, chiefly, was at-
tended with loss of sleep, followed by an impaired
state of the digestive organs, induced the disease in a
very remarkable degree and at a much earlier
period of life than otherwise would have been
expected. Again, it is to be observed, that there

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an circumstance, which in a ~~late~~ peculiar manner
 present the manner of this disease: e.g. Those of
 a sanguine ~~complexion~~; or athletic frame of body,
 a well formed chest, whose occupation or pursuits have
 led them to great exertion in the open air, are
 frequently exempt from the evidence of old ag-
 ing. They have arrived at a very advanced period of life.
 Secondly, The inhabitants of a warm climate are usually
 exempt from the attack until after old age.

Thirdly. In like manner - those who are
 in the habit of using the warm bath, usually
 escape the visitation of the disease in a very advanced
 period of life - we see this exemplified in a remarkable
 manner in the south of Europe particularly among the
 French and Italians.

Symptoms

The first symptoms of catarrhus vesicæ show themselves
 at the approach of cold weather; and to the change
 of season the disease is usually ascribed as the
 external cause, being considered as the commonest

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of an ordinary catarrh, to which it certainly bears great resemblance. Doubtless, the cool weather of autumn has its agency, as in summer, the disease undergoes a summer remission. The disease also becomes first apparent in the morning, when the cough is most troublesome and dry, the expectoration being obtained with great difficulty.

The cough comes on in paroxysms which continue many minutes, some what similar to the interales efforts in whooping cough; at length, with great difficulty, an expectoration follows, an adhesive sharp phlegm; on one or two of a similar kind, the patient takes a run at the same time from the nose, and eyes, followed by a sneeze which is apt to become permanent and troublesome, here probably some eyes are so frequently associated with the disease as connective with and proceeding from, a morbid state of the excretions.

The skin too becomes ~~very~~ remarkably dry and to a degree shrivelled and covered with a dry scurf or dandrif.

[illegible]

The excitation from the bronchia and Lungs is gradually increased by the irritation and frequent returns of the cough, and as the body becomes enfeebled, phlegm accumulates in the cellular parts of the lungs, so as in some degree to impede the due circulation of the blood through the pulmonary vessels, and thereby to interrupt the perfect decarbonisation of that fluid - analogous to the impeded circulation through the lungs in the advanced or passive stage of pleurisy.

In this manner it is death sometimes even when scarcely takes place, and in people the age, without a struggle, the interchange between the blood and the atmosphere being suddenly cut off by the interposing mass of phlegm that is accumulated under ordinary circumstances a slight degree of livid action is the attendant upon this complaint, the cheeks exhibit more or less of a hectic flush, and in some cases a livid purple appearance of the face itself, with a correspondent quickening of circulation and heat of the surface especially in the palms of the hands and accumulation of blood sometimes takes place upon the brain, producing great heat and sense of burning, at other times goldenness and sometimes coma or a propensity

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to sleep. A patient of my father frequently complained of a
 sense of burning upon the top of the head attended with aetage,
 both of which were increased during the paroxysm of coughing
 and indeed were probably created by the his frequent fits of
 coughing. The chest also shows more or less of oppression, some-
 times exhibiting an asthmatic fulness; in one instance this
 appeared to be the predominant symptom. The heart too
 occasionally partakes of the irritation, it becomes irregular in its
 action owing to the interruption in the pulmonary circulation.
 When these irritations of the Brain and whole system appear there
 is also more or less disturbance of the digestive organs especially
 loss of ~~appetite~~ appetite, cardialgia and flatulency.

Remote causes

The remote causes have been already enumerated in the history of
 the disease as Deviations into wrong habits, constitutional
 weakness, excessive immoderate sexual excesses
Debauchery and Dissem
 In this disease appears only in the it is generally remedied
 to appear as a consequence of most of the preceding and
 exciting causes making up the prolonged remission.

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The acute case

we are now led to ask the more important question what is the
 essential cause of Catarrhus Vesicæ, on which the solution of the
 question depends the principle upon which the Physician is to
 proceed in palliating or in removing the disease.

I have never met with a satisfactory reply to this question
 or a solution of the symptoms which have been enumerated.
 When we keep in view the facts that have been related as it
 regards the subject of the disease, the causes which induce it,
 the season of the year at which it commences, the variable
 climate in which it is of most frequent occurrence, we are
 prepared to believe, that the proximate cause in part
 consists in a general debility of the whole system, and an
 increased sensibility of the things in common with that
 of the other parts of the body the effects of such relaxation.
 The result of the debility thus induced is that the relaxation to the
 surface of the body is thereby lessened, an accumulation of the
 fluids in the head and that in the consequence, an increase
 almost, of the heat and larger vessels will necessarily
 affect the head and lungs both of which manifest the irritation



which are attendant upon catarrhus vesicis, are not the display
of the skin as well as the heat and other febrile symptoms generally,
such as in the skin of the face in catarrhus vesicis, are not
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the consequence of ~~such~~ such determination is necessarily an increased
excretion from the renal secretion the pulmonary vessels terminating
upon the surface of the lungs, I now speak of the quantity
of fluids and their operation as such mechanically.

But there is another source of this peculiar irritation
on the lungs attendant upon advanced age; I refer to the
senility of the circulating fluids as well as their mechanical
accumulation and the consequent increase of the excretions
from the head and chest. It is a fact well known to the
Physiologist that it is the function of the skin,
as well as the kidneys, to separate from the circulating mass
of fluids various saline and ~~solid~~ ^{solid} materials.
Modern chemistry has very clearly made known to us the
ingredients which constitute those discharges. These being
retained by the diminished diameter and obstruction of the
extremity vessels, what follows? I answer, an accumulation
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These insensibles in the same way may be exhaled from the constitution by the other outlets viz. the kidneys the bowels and other excreting organs including the exhalative surface of the lungs not that there is a direct transportation of the peculiar matter that ought to be thrown off from the skin - viz. dungs, but an accumulation of it in the whole insulating mass & hence more of it necessarily shows itself in the other excretions especially where those excretions are most abundant as the kidneys and bowels and in old age the lungs.

But do the insensibles of the lungs not occasion the cause of a number of diseases? In every age some do not they do, even now we are disposed to ascribe the great catarrhs of the bladder and kidneys which so frequently met with in old age since gravel and stone appear more frequently and in advanced life some we ascribe more and in particular to age of it is certainly in the winter season, hence too arises the scaly & bony deposits which take place in different parts of the body, in the valves of the heart, in the coronary and other arteries of the body, in the pineal gland, in the membranes of the brain, lungs, in the pericardium &c. To the same cause we are to attribute the Baileys morbo anatum.

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The possibility of negative action as ^{to} temperature in the summer
and some increase of the skin which more especially belong to
old age -

For we see an accumulation of this change in the summer season
in most persons in the winter season; every person attending to
these changes and the influence of temperature upon the functions
of the skin, must have observed the scale, indeed some that
is voided in the summer season, while that of the same
person, in winter, is loaded with earthy and saline materials;
doubtless owing to the suppression of the discharge of lithic matter
that ordinarily passes through the surface of the body ⁺ the same
thing occurs in the winter of life when the functions of the skin
is to a certain degree suspended, at least impaired even
the obliteration of many of the small vessels of the cutaneous
net ⁺ might illustrate in some cases for a case of which
has fallen under my notice in the New York Hospital when
mercury taken to a considerable extent in syphilis became
deposited in the cells of the bones, instead of being discharged
in the excretories of the skin: this may illustrate in
dissection the bones being still involved by my fellow student -

⁺ Wilson's Plates of the Skin

⁺ See Wilson on Disposition and gravel



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to preserve the healthy action in the digestive organs and of the whole system:

Secondly The Indication is to preserve open all the other excretions of the system that the discharge by the lungs may not be increased; hence also we infer the importance of warm dry, flannel worn next the surface of the body and that frequently changed, hence the use of friction by the flesh brush and the importance of warm bedding both as an emollient to the surface as well as an excitant of its numerous excretions; for the same reason the bowels should be kept open and attention paid to the kidneys: such are the general means of preventing and indeed of removing the evil attendant upon this disease.

Thirdly Another Indication is to preserve the tone of the lungs themselves and thereby to lessen the morbid sensibility to the more immediate agent or exciting cause of the disease. This is to be accomplished by the stimulant expectorants and other remedies ordinarly directed in the treatment of Chronic Catarrh.

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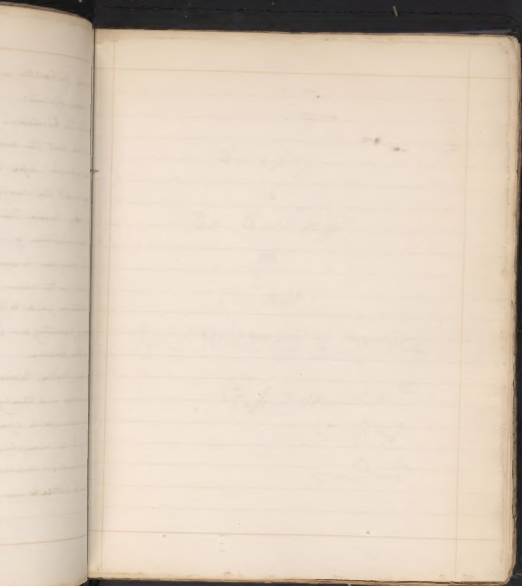
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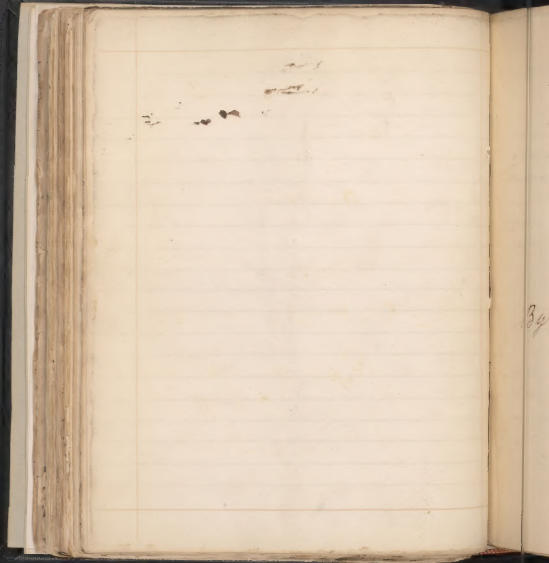
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